3: Angulo & Freeland D-5 (1926) 1929
NR13 Northern Paiute NR13



501 They used the tule "balsa" on the lakes. There are of course no navigable streams in their country.

498 They used dogs for packing, but not with the travois method. I never heard of the Pit Rivers using dogs for packing.

### Résumé.

105 171 These Northern Paiute of California exhibit even fewer characteristics of the culture of the Plains than seems to be the case with other Great Basin Shoshoneans, as indeed might be expected. In fact, except for certain traits wich are probably of recent introduction (say, after the arrival of horse culture), and which the Pit Rivers also possess though less intensively, it would be hard to differentiate them from what may have been the *primary* type of culture of the California-Great Basin province, One might therefore class them as Californians. On the other hand, they lack those characteristics of a *secondary* and more recent layer of culture which have their focus in north-central California (solid houses, ceremonial complex, exceptionally fine basketry raised to the level of an art, etc.) [1].

It would seem then that here we are at the dead point between the reach of influences from those two centers: Plains, and Central California. Or rather we may say that the "secondary" culture of California which has but very feebly penetrated the Pit Rivers, has died at the western base of the Warner Range and left the Paiutes untouched, while many Plains characteristics have infiltrated the Pit Rivers.

## LANGUAGE.

### General Impression.

191 193 This dialect of Shoshonean (probably to be classed with Bannok) gives the impression of being a rather simple and transparent language of the analytic type. At least this appears to be its present stage. There are however many signs which suggest that the bare and sparse morphology is to be looked upon as a result of a process of breaking down or wearing off of older and more complex forms.

### Phonology.

194 (The symbols used are those recommended by the American Anthropological Association, [Smithsonian Publication 2415]).

1. See Kroeber's *Handbook of the Indians of California*, *passim*.

The phonetic system of Northern Paiute appears to be rather simple. 194 For an accurate analysis based on experimental methods, see *Phonetic Elements of the Northern Paiute Language* by T. T. Waterman, U. of Cal. Publ. Vol. 10, No. 2. For the purposes of dynamic phonetics from the point of view of significant sound-patterns the following cadre, although only a schematic reduction, represents the reality fairly well:

## I. CONSONANTS.

| | | Laryngeal | Guttural | Palatal | Frontal | Labial |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Plosive Intermediates | | ' | *p K G* | | *T D* | *P B* |
| Fricatives | surd | *h* | | | *s c* | |
| | sonant | | *g* | | *ɾ* | |
| Nasals | | | *ŋ* | | *n* | *m* |
| Liquids | | | | | *l* | |

## II. SEMI-VOWELS.

*y* more vocalic than consonantal (tendency to diphthongize *ya, ye*, etc. to *ia ie*, etc.)

*w* more vocalic than consonantal; more labial than guttural (*wa, we* tends to sound like *ua, ue*)

## III. VOWELS.

*u, o, a, e, i* between the "close" and "open" positions.
*ï. ë* ("unrounded u and o")

The preceding table represents in a gross way what seemed to me to be the "ideal" functional scheme of Northern Paiute phonetics. Many other sounds occur besides, but they appear to be either sporadic or deviations from type through the influence of juxtaposed sounds.

● 194 It will be noticed that in the *plosive* series I have eliminated both true surds and true sonants, and reduced everything to the *intermediate* level, writing *P* or *B*, *T* or *D*, etc. according as my own subjective impression leaned towards the surd or the sonant. In the guttural position the velar *q* undoubtedly occurs and with such frequency that I am in doubt whether it does not really replace the *K* in the ideal scheme. Furthermore it is quite often markedly aspirated (*q'*), and often even degenerates into x in rapid speech. The "glottal catch" when final is apt to be followed by a voiceless echo-vowel (*a'ᵃ*).

The *b* sound is of the ordinary type of "inverted affricate" as in English.

In the *fricative* series the absence of x is notable. The absence of bi-labial f and v is easily compensated by the semi-vowel *w*, but I must also note that the *B* has often a bi-labial spirantic quality (β). There is however no tendency for *P* to appear as φ (in other words no tendency to aspiration : *P'*). *s* and *c* appear to be equivalent. The absence of affricates (*ts*, *dz*, etc.) is notable.

In the *liquid* series *r* is absent.

All the vowels are intermediate in position between the close and open articulations, with a fairly wide margin of variability. This is especially true of the "unrounded back-vowels", where there is perhaps only one ideal type, namely *i*, but this vowel often appears as an undoubted *ɨ*, and again as either *o* or *e*. This is rather strange and would indicate the possible presence of "ablaut" changes which have escaped me.

The tendency to *unvoicing* final vowels, even when the preceding syllable is not particularly accented, is so marked that is sometimes amounts to true "whispering". This is of importance in regard to the possible gradual loss of "endings".

Dynamic stress is not marked, but there is an evident tendency to interpolate obscure unaccented vowels as a sort of transition between words (as in southern French), resulting in a pseudo-accentuation or peculiar lilt.

Lengthening of vowels often appears in my notes, but may perhaps be only the result of over-careful enunciation on the part of my informants.

A peculiar sound occurs rather frequently : *TsKw*, in which the *w* element is voiceless, whispered and often followed by a weakly-articulated whispered *i*.

# CULTURE ELEMENT DISTRIBUTIONS: XIV
# NORTHERN PAIUTE

BY

OMER C. STEWART

## INTRODUCTION

121 This study is intended to show the presence or absence of certain elements of culture in representative bands of the Northern Paiute.[1,*] Information from two neighboring peoples, the Achomawi 101 and the Washo, is also included for the purpose 131 of comparison. The Northern Paiute of Owens Valley are not included because of Steward's studies of them.[2] Although some of the groups included here—notably the Hunipui, Walpapi, Wada, Yahuskin, Koa'agai, and Tagö—have been called Snake and Bannock and have had a "Plains type" of culture attributed to them, conclusive evidence is now on record to show that these bands are typically Northern Paiute.[3]

133 The habitat of the Northern Paiute is uniformly desert, being modified somewhat by streams carrying water into the area from the Sierra Nevada, Cascade, Teton, and Blue mountains. Their territory is shaped roughly like an isosceles triangle with its point at Owens Lake, California, and its 275-mile base at Blue Mountains in Oregon, about 600 miles to the north. With the exception of part of the arid plateau in the north, all the area lies within the Basin-Range physiographic province; in fact, the western edge of the Great Basin is approximately coterminous with the Northern Paiute western boundary. Even closer 137 is the coincidence of the western or northern tribal boundary and the edges of the desert sagebrush vegetation zone. The valley flora is dominated by sagebrush, shadscale, and greasewood. The ranges are generally placed in the "Piñon-Juniper Zone,"[4] but the piñon, found sporadically on the Nevada ranges, is absent from Idaho and 136 Oregon. Antelope, deer, and mountain sheep are fairly common throughout the area, although jack rabbit, ground squirrel, and other small game were certainly the chief source of meat. Contrary

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[104 1947] *Phonetic key.—ə, "mute" e as in French je, le; ü, pronounced much as the u in German kühl or French lune; u, as in German gut; e, as in French été; i, as in French fini; a, as in English far; ġ, a velar sonant g accompanied by a uvular vibration; r, pronounced as French uvular r; ', glottal stop; v, bilabial V, as in Spanish; ą, nasal as in French. Other letters pronounced as in English.

[1] Julian H. Steward, Culture Element Distributions: XII—Nevada Shoshoni. AR 4: 209-359, 1941.

[2] Omer C. Stewart, Northern Paiute Bands. AR 2: 127-149, 1939.

[3] Shantz, 2[illegible] and map. [p. 361 (A)]